

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) A method of increasing the vigor and/or the yield of an agronomic plant comprising treating the plant or its propagation material with an effective amount of a triazole fungicide selected from the group consisting of amitrol, azaconazole, bitertanol, bromuconazole, climbazole, clotrimazole, cyproconazole, diclobutrazol, difenoconazole, diniconazole, diniconazole-M, epoxiconazole, etaconazole, fenbuconazole, fluquinconazole, fluotrimazole, flusilazole, flutriafol, furconazole, furconazole-cis, hexaconazole, imibenconazole, ipconazole, metconazole, myclobutanil, paclobutrazol, penconazole, propiconazole, quinconazole, simeconazole, tebuconazole, tetraconazole, triadimefon, triadimenol, triazbutil, 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(1 H-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl)ethanone, and mixtures thereof, or a strobilurin fungicide; and  
planting the treated propagation material and/or growing the treated plant in the absence of pest pressure by fungal plant pathogens against which the triazole, or strobilurin type fungicide is known to be active, and thereby increasing the vigor and/or the yield of the plant
- 3 - 10. (cancelled)
11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the fungicide comprises fluquinconazole, simeconazole, tebuconazole, tetraconazole, ~~triticonazole~~, 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(1 H-1,2,4-triazole-1 -yl)ethanone, or mixtures thereof.
12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the fungicide comprises fluquinconazole.
13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the fungicide comprises simeconazole.
14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the fungicide comprises tebuconazole.
15. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, wherein the fungicide comprises tetraconazole.

16. (canceled)
17. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, wherein the fungicide comprises 1 -(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(1 H-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl)ethanone.
18. (canceled)
19. (canceled)
20. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 2 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the fungicide comprises fluquinconazole and simeconazole.
21. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 2 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the fungicide comprises fluquinconazole and azoxystrobin.
22. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 2 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the fungicide comprises simeconazole and azoxystrobin.
23. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2 ~~claim 8~~, wherein the fungicide comprises simeconazole and silthiofam.
24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the plant or its propagation material comprises seed and the seed is treated with an amount of the fungicide from about 0.1 gm/100 kg of seed to about 1,000 gm/100kg of seed.
25. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the seed is treated with fungicide in an amount of from about 2 gm/100 kg of seed to about 200 gm/100 kg of seed.
26. (original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the seed is treated with fungicide in an amount of from about 10 gm/100 kg of seed to about 150 gm/100 kg of seed.
27. (original) The method according to claim 26, wherein the seed is treated with fungicide in an amount of from about 20 gm/100 kg of seed to about 100 gm/100 kg of seed.
28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is selected from the group consisting of corn, cereals, barley, rye, rice, vegetables, clovers, legumes, beans, peas, alfalfa, sugar cane, sugar beets, tobacco, cotton, rapeseed (canola), sunflower, safflower, and sorghum.
29. (original) The method according to claim 28, wherein the agronomic crop comprises corn.

Second claim numbered 29 (canceled)

30 — 63. (cancelled)

64. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the class Magnoliopsida.

65. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the order Fabales.

66. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the family Fabaceae.

67. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the sub-family Papilionoideae or Faboideae.

68. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is selected from the group consisting of *Pisum spp.*, *Medicago spp.*, *Arachis spp.*, *Glycine spp.*, *Vicia spp.*, *Vigna spp.*, trefoil, clovers and *Phaseolus spp.*

69. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is a soybean plant.

70. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of treating the plant or its propagation material comprises treating a seed of the plant with an effective amount of the fungicide.

71. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of treating the plant or its propagation material comprises applying the fungicide to the foliage of the plant.

72. (previously presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the family Fabaceae.

73. (previously presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the sub-family Papilionoideae or Faboideae.

74. (previously presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein the agronomic plant is selected from the group consisting of *Pisum spp.*, *Medicago spp.*, *Arachis spp.*, *Glycine spp.*, *Vicia spp.*, *Vigna spp.*, trefoil, clovers and *Phaseolus spp.*

75. (previously presented) The method according to claim 70, wherein the seed is treated with an inoculant comprising *Azospirillum spp.*, or *Rhizobium spp.*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp.*, or a mixture of *Rhizobium spp.* and *Bradyrhizobium spp.*, or a

mixture of either *Rhizobium spp* or *Bradyrhizobium spp* with any other microorganisms.

76. (previously presented) The method according to claim 70, wherein the seed is treated with an inoculant comprising *Bradyrhizobium japonicum*.

77. (previously presented) The method according to claim 70, wherein the treatment of the seed of the plant comprises, in addition, treatment of the seed with a fungicide selected from the group consisting of fludioxonil, fluquinconazole, difenoconazole, captan, metalaxyl, carboxin and thiram.

78. (previously presented) The method according to claim 70, where the treatment of the seed comprises treatment with an inoculant comprising *Azospirillum spp*, or *Rhizobium spp*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp*, or a mixture of *Rhizobium spp* and *Bradyrhizobium spp*, or a mixture of either *Rhizobium spp*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp* with any other microorganisms.

79. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the plant propagation material comprises a seed and wherein the seed possesses a transgenic event providing the plant with resistance to a herbicide and the treatment comprises foliar application of said herbicide.

80. (currently amended) The method according to claim 79, wherein the herbicide is selected from the group consisting of glyphosate, glufosinate, ~~imidazilinone~~ imidazolinone, and sulfonylurea STS-system.

81. (currently amended) The method according to claim 71, wherein the seed possesses a transgenic event providing the plant with resistance to a herbicide selected from the group consisting of glyphosate, glufosinate, imidazolinone, ~~imidazilinone~~ and sulfonylurea STS-system and the treatment comprises foliar application of said herbicide.

82. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the treatment comprises treating the seed of the plant with an inoculant selected from the group consisting of *Azospirillum spp*, or *Rhizobium spp*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp*, or a mixture of *Rhizobium spp* and *Bradyrhizobium spp*, or a mixture of either *Rhizobium spp*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp* with any other microorganisms, and further includes foliar treatment of the plant with an active agent.

83. (currently amended) The method according to claim 82, wherein the seed

possesses a transgenic event providing the plant with resistance to a herbicide selected from the group consisting of glyphosate, glufosinate, imidazolinone, ~~imidazilinone~~ and STS-system (sulfonyleurea tolerance) and the treatment further comprises foliar application of said herbicide.

84. (previously presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein the seed possesses a transgenic event providing the plant with resistance to a herbicide and the step of applying the fungicide to the foliage of the plant comprises the application of the fungicide in combination with said herbicide.

85. (previously presented) The method according to claim 84, wherein the herbicide is glyphosate.

86 - 98. (cancelled)

99. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the strobilurin fungicide is selected from the group consisting of azoxystrobin, dimoxystrobin, famoxadone, kresoxim-methyl, metominostrobin, picoxystrobin, pyraclostrobin, trifloxystrobin, and mixtures thereof.

100. (new) A method of increasing the vigor and/or the yield of an agronomic plant comprising treating the plant or its propagation material with a silthiofam-type fungicide and an effective amount of a triazole fungicide, or a strobilurin fungicide; and planting the treated propagation material and/or growing the treated plant in the absence of pest pressure by fungal plant pathogens against which the triazole, or strobilurin type fungicide is known to be active, and thereby increasing the vigor and/or the yield of the plant

101. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the fungicide comprises a triazole fungicide having a halogen-substituted phenyl group that is linked to a 1,2,4-triazole group.

102. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the fungicide comprises a triazole fungicide selected from the group consisting of amitrol, azaconazole, bitertanol, bromuconazole, climbazole, clotrimazole, cyproconazole, diclobutrazol, difenoconazole, diniconazole, diniconazole-M, epoxiconazole, etaconazole, fenbuconazole, fluquinconazole, fluotrimazole, flusilazole, flutriafol, furconazole, furconazole-cis, hexaconazole, imibenconazole, ipconazole, metconazole,

myclobutanil, paclobutrazol, penconazole, propiconazole, quinconazole, simeconazole, tebuconazole, tetraconazole, triadimefon, triadimenol, triazbutil, triticonazole, 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(1 H-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl)ethanone, and mixtures thereof.

103. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the fungicide comprises fluquinconazole, simeconazole, tebuconazole, tetraconazole, triticonazole, 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(1 H-1,2,4-triazole-1 -yl)ethanone, or mixtures thereof.

104. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the fungicide comprises fluquinconazole.

105. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the fungicide comprises simeconazole.

106. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the fungicide comprises tebuconazole.

107. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the fungicide comprises tetraconazole.

108. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the fungicide comprises triticonazole.

109. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the fungicide comprises 1 -(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(1 H-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl)ethanone.

110. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the fungicide comprises fluquinconazole and simeconazole.

111. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the fungicide comprises fluquinconazole and azoxystrobin.

112. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the fungicide comprises simeconazole and azoxystrobin.

113. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the plant or its propagation material comprises seed and the seed is treated with an amount of the fungicide from about 0.1 gm/100 kg of seed to about 1,000 gm/100kg of seed.

114. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the seed is treated with fungicide in an amount of from about 2 gm/100 kg of seed to about 200 gm/100 kg of seed.

115. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the seed is treated

with fungicide in an amount of from about 10 gm/100 kg of seed to about 150 gm/100 kg of seed.

116. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the seed is treated with fungicide in an amount of from about 20 gm/100 kg of seed to about 100 gm/100 kg of seed.

117. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the agronomic plant is selected from the group consisting of corn, cereals, barley, rye, rice, vegetables, clovers, legumes, beans, peas, alfalfa, sugar cane, sugar beets, tobacco, cotton, rapeseed (canola), sunflower, safflower, and sorghum.

118. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the agronomic crop comprises corn.

119. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the class Magnoliopsida.

120. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the order Fabales.

121. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the family Fabaceae.

122. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the sub-family Papilionoideae or Faboideae.

123. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the agronomic plant is selected from the group consisting of *Pisum spp.*, *Medicago spp.*, *Arachis spp.*, *Glycine spp.*, *Vicia spp.*, *Vigna spp.*, trefoil, clovers and *Phaseolus spp.*

124. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the agronomic plant is a soybean plant.

125. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the step of treating the plant or its propagation material comprises treating a seed of the plant with an effective amount of the fungicide.

126. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the step of treating the plant or its propagation material comprises applying the fungicide to the foliage of the plant.

127. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the agronomic plant is

a member of the family Fabaceae.

128. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the sub-family Papilionoideae or Faboideae.

129. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the agronomic plant is selected from the group consisting of *Pisum spp*, *Medicago spp*, *Arachis spp*, *Glycine spp*, *Vicia spp*, *Vigna spp*, trefoil, clovers and *Phaseolus spp*

130. (new) The method according to claim 125, wherein the seed is treated with an inoculant comprising *Azospirillum spp*, or *Rhizobium spp.*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp*, or a mixture of *Rhizobium spp* and *Bradyrhizobium spp*, or a mixture of either *Rhizobium spp* or *Bradyrhizobium spp* with any other microorganisms.

131. (new) The method according to claim 125, wherein the seed is treated with an inoculant comprising *Bradyrhizobium japonicum*.

132. (new) The method according to claim 125, wherein the treatment of the seed of the plant comprises, in addition, treatment of the seed with a fungicide selected from the group consisting of fludioxonil, fluquinconazole, difenoconazole, captan, metalaxyl, carboxin and thiram.

133. (new) The method according to claim 125, where the treatment of the seed comprises treatment with an inoculant comprising *Azospirillum spp*, or *Rhizobium spp*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp*, or a mixture of *Rhizobium spp* and *Bradyrhizobium spp*, or a mixture of either *Rhizobium spp*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp* with any other microorganisms.

134. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the plant propagation material comprises a seed and wherein the seed possesses a transgenic event providing the plant with resistance to a herbicide and the treatment comprises foliar application of said herbicide.

135. (new) The method according to claim 134, wherein the herbicide is selected from the group consisting of glyphosate, glufosinate, imidazolinone, and sulfonylurea.

136. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the seed possesses a transgenic event providing the plant with resistance to a herbicide selected from the group consisting of glyphosate, glufosinate, imidazolinone, and sulfonylurea and the treatment comprises foliar application of said herbicide.



137. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the treatment comprises treating the seed of the plant with an inoculant selected from the group consisting of *Azospirillum spp*, or *Rhizobium spp*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp*, or a mixture of *Rhizobium spp* and *Bradyrhizobium spp*, or a mixture of either *Rhizobium spp*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp* with any other microorganisms, and further includes foliar treatment of the plant with an active agent.

138. (new) The method according to claim 137, wherein the seed possesses a transgenic event providing the plant with resistance to a herbicide selected from the group consisting of glyphosate, glufosinate, imidazolinone, and sulfonylurea and the treatment further comprises foliar application of said herbicide.

139. (new) The method according to claim 126, wherein the seed possesses a transgenic event providing the plant with resistance to a herbicide and the step of applying the fungicide to the foliage of the plant comprises the application of the fungicide in combination with said herbicide.

140. (new) The method according to claim 139, wherein the herbicide is glyphosate.

141. (new) The method according to claim 100, wherein the strobilurin fungicide is selected from the group consisting of azoxystrobin, dimoxystrobin, famoxadone, kresoxim-methyl, metominostrobin, picoxystrobin, pyraclostrobin, trifloxystrobin, and mixtures thereof.